

Sunday Telegraph: 27 Oct 68, Page 1 &amp; 32

# PHILBY MAY BE BEHIND BIG SPY RING IN N.A.T.O.

From ERIC DOWNTON  
Sunday Telegraph Special Correspondent

SALONIKA, Saturday.

**K**IM PHILBY, the Briton who spent a lifetime spying for Russia and now lives in Moscow, may be one of the organisers of espionage penetration within N.A.T.O.

This is the opinion of officers in Turkey and Greece investigating a suspected Russian spy network inside the alliance's military organisation. Turkish officials this week admitted that an investigation is being made throughout

N.A.T.O.

A Turk, Nihat Imre, formerly Chief Financial controller at N.A.T.O. headquarters in Brussels, has been under intensive interrogation in Ankara for a month on suspicion of spying for Russia.

Imre is alleged to have been caught photographing documents in his Brussels office on Sept. 12 according to reports in the Turkish press. He was handed over to the Turkish authorities and taken back to Ankara under arrest nine days later.

It has been officially stated in Ankara that Imre will be tried before a Turkish military court. As the trial will be in secret it is possible that the hearing began this weekend.

## Bonn suicides

Counter-espionage experts in Turkey and West Germany are investigating the possibility of links between the Imre case and a series of military and civil service suicides in West Germany which have aroused fears in Bonn that the Russians have succeeded in creating a widespread spy ring inside the West German armed forces and N.A.T.O. The West German Government yesterday disclosed that six Communist spies recently escaped into East Germany.

In Ankara there is much speculation that events in Germany may have been influenced by revelations made by Imre. The Turkish government is keeping its N.A.T.O. allies closely informed on results of the Imre interrogation.

Both as a British intelligence agent and as a journalist, Philby worked and lived in Turkey. He visited Izmir, where N.A.T.O.'s South Eastern Land Headquarters are situated, a number of times.

Philby, now openly working as a Colonel of the K.G.B., the Russian intelligence organisation, in Moscow, has a detailed knowledge of the N.A.T.O. establishment.

Before he fled to Moscow, when it became known he was a double agent—working for the Russians while posing as a British intelligence agent in the Middle East—he had personal contact with soldiers and diplomats of various nationalities who have recently served or are still serving with N.A.T.O.

It is unlikely that full repercussions of the Imre affair will ever be made public. There are reports that soldiers and civil servants of other nationalities, including an American officer, have recently been quietly moved from their jobs in N.A.T.O. and are being questioned concerning the spy ring investigations.